GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3026
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Merit Scholarship and the National Talent Scholarship Schemes;

(b) the number of beneficiary students and the amount of scholarship released during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is any request pending with the Government for the revision in the income criteria and for enhancement of the scholarship amount in relation to current economic situation;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be arrived at?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT .D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) Under the National Merit Scholarship Scheme, financial assistance is provided to 10,976 meritorious students of rural areas studying in classes IX & X and also to 17,000 meritorious students studying at post-matric to post- graduate level in schools and colleges. The rate of scholarship amount varies from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 750/- per month at different stages of education. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme operated through the State Governments/UT administrations. The scholarships are awarded to the eligible students based on the merit list prepared by the concerned State/UT. Entire expenditure incurred by the States/UTs for disbursement of scholarships under the scheme is met by Government of India.

The NCERT has National Talent Search Scholarship Scheme for award of 1000 scholarship at the end of class X. Under the scheme, the awardees studying basic Sciences and Social Sciences including Commerce are eligible to receive scholarship up to Ph.D level, whereas awardees studying professional courses in Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Management and Law are eligible to receive scholarship up to second degree level. The amount of scholarship to each candidate is Rs. 500/- per month except for Ph.D students. Ph.D students are paid as per UGC norms. Identification of talent comprises two-stage selection process. The first stage selection is conducted by the individual State/UT, the second stage selection at the national level is carried out by the NCERT.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) No such proposal is pending with the Centre. At present, parental income ceiling under the National Merit Scholarship Scheme is Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum. However, the parental income criterion of Rs. 1.50 lakh per annum under the National Talent Search Scheme has been waived off w.e.f. the financial year 2005-06. Now, full scholarship is paid to all awardees, irrespective of parental income.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.